

Biography

Owen Mundy creates images, objects, actions, and software that investigates public space and its relationship to information. His work highlights inconspicuous trends and offers tools to make hackers out of everyday users. He is an Assistant Professor of Art at Florida State University, currently based in Berlin through the DAAD.

“The Self-Indulgence of Closed Systems”

Radical Openness “The Economy of Open Systems” Lecture

30 minute lecture; four guests total

1. Introduction

a. Closed systems (5 min)

i. A term that comes from the Cold War and the invention of the computer

1. Paul Edwards, “The Closed World” describes the arrival of the digital computer within a closed system.

2. For example, one of the first closed systems, Operation Igloo white

3. Even though military endeavors of the time did not work, because they were closed to scrutiny the leaders were able to convince the public they did.

a. Sound familiar? Microsoft jab here

ii. Facebook is a closed system

1. But...

iii. Capitalism is a closed economic system

1. But...

b. Background

i. My work in closed systems

2. Previous projects (7 min)

a. Your Art Here

b. The Darkest Hour is Just before Dawn

c. Lucent

d. Keyword Intervention

e. Camp La Jolla

f. You Never Close Your Eyes Anymore

g. Firing Blind (network graph segue)

3. Give Me My Data (10 min)

a. Introduction

b. Significance

c. Background

4. The Economy of Open Systems (7 min)

a. Larger context: Things to consider (Closed Systems)

i. The Stasi comparison

1. Numbers...

- ii. Advertising
 - 1. How Facebook and Google earn money
 - 2. We are the product
- iii. The open data conundrum
 - 1. We have to give up something to get something

Freedom for Our Files: Creative Reuse of Personal Data in a Closed World **Radical Openness Workshop**

Two-day workshop, 2.5 hours each; 8 participants

1. Day One

- a. Objective(s):
 - i. Quick introduction to programming (if needed)
 - ii. Scrape and reuse data from a public website
 - iii. Learn about Application Program Interfaces (APIs)
 - iv. Get your own Facebook data
- b. Introduction (20 min)
 - i. Cover objectives for both days
 - ii. How many programmers?
 - iii. Introductions
 - iv. Who is this workshop for?
 - 1. Artists, activists, and programmers with an interest in privacy, media democracy, and data mining and visualization.
- c. Programming intro: PHP (20 min)
 - i. Installation ([MAMP](#)) or FTP server
 - ii. Variables, arrays, loops
 - iii. file()
 - iv. Codeplay (20 min) (pair-off)
- d. Scraping (20 min)
 - i. Overview
 - ii. Spiders
 - iii. Codeplay (20 min)
- e. Technical description of how an API works (10 min)
 - i. XML
 - ii. relational database
 - iii. re-constructing information
- f. Get data from Facebook API (10 min)
 - i. Codeplay (20 min)

2. Day Two

- a. Objective:

- i. Review material from previous day
- ii. Visualization options
- iii. Projects to discuss
- iv. In the spirit of Give Me My Data, find ways to re-imagine your personal data
- v. Discussion: what should Give Me My Data 2.0 be?
- b. Review and share work from previous day (30 min)
- c. Visualize and represent (20 min)
 - i. Many eyes
 - ii. Graphviz
 - iii. Processing
 - iv. Nodebox
 - v. even CSS
- d. Projects in the world that reuse found or personal data (20 min)
 - i. My own
 - ii. <http://wefeelfine.org>
 - iii. <http://theyrule.net>
 - iv. many more here...
- e. Give Me My Data 2.0 (60 min)
 - i. Participation groups
 1. What can be done with data?
 2. How can data be reused?
 3. What formats are most useful?
 4. Who has the data?
 5. Is it possible to provide a function and critique at once?
 - a. Can users download data?
 - b. Can users download the data companies use to create demographics?
- f. Presentation of projects and feedback (20 min)